

## OVERVIEW

Participants produce a digital portfolio consisting digital photographs that represent or relate to a chosen theme (posted on the [TSA website](#) under Competitions/Themes and Problems). Individuals submit their portfolio entry electronically via a link provided on the Competition Updates page of the [TSA website](#) as a single, multipage PDF document. Semifinalists produce a series of digital photographs taken at the conference site during an on-site task within the time limit specified.

## ELIGIBILITY

Three (3) individuals per state may participate.

## TIME LIMITS

### PRELIMINARY ROUND

1. All components of the chapter's entry must be finished, submitted, and accessible via the Internet by 11:59 p.m. EST on May 15th.
2. Email verification of each team's entry will be made by June 10th.

### SEMIFINAL ROUND

1. One-half (½) hour is allowed to set up equipment and receive the on-site task and procedures.
2. Two (2) hours are permitted to complete the on-site task.

## LEAP

An individual LEAP Response is required for this event.

## ATTIRE

TSA competition attire is required.

## PROCEDURE

### PRE-CONFERENCE

1. Participants produce a portfolio focusing on this year's theme while observing the outlined regulations.
2. Participants submit the entry and the LEAP Response by 11:59 p.m. EST on May 15th. Submission information will be provided on the [TSA website](#) under Competition Updates.
3. Email verification of each team's entry will be made by June 10th.

### PRELIMINARY ROUND

1. A list of twelve (12) semifinalists (in random order) will be posted on-site at the national TSA conference on the first full day of conference.

### SEMIFINAL ROUND

1. Semifinalists report to the event area at the time and place stated in the conference program, with all of the required equipment and software noted in the event Regulations section.
2. Semifinalists are allowed one-half (½) hour to set up and test their equipment.
3. At the end of the set-up time, the event coordinator present the on-site task and related procedure to the semifinalists.
4. The task will involve students taking photographs surrounding a specific theme, or documenting a current aspect of the conference, such as a competitive event, a special focus of the site, a general session, etc.
5. The coordinator will distribute TSA approved USB flash drives to the semifinalists.

6. Finalists are given two (2) hours to complete the task, including taking their pictures, and editing or enhancing them. The finalists must save the final photos in a multimedia presentation on the TSA approved USB flash drives, which are to be given to the judges.
  7. The participant will sign-up for a presentation/ interview time once the two (2) hours has concluded.
  8. Judges assess the entries, including each participant's LEAP Response.
  9. Semifinalists report to the event area at the time and place stated in the conference program for the presentation/interview.
  10. The top ten (10) finalists will be announced at the awards ceremony.
- c. Photos:
    - i. Originality: photos must be taken, edited, and saved digitally by the participant, with no assistance.
    - ii. Submission: the original photo and the edited version should appear together on the same page and must be labeled "ORIGINAL" and "EDITED."
    - iii. The next page should include descriptions of the preceding photos along with a synopsis of how the original photo was edited/changed, and the rationale surrounding how the theme specifically is addressed by both the style and content of the photo.
    - iv. Enhancements and/or editing should be done ethically and in a way that makes a better photograph.

## REGULATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

### PRE-CONFERENCE

- A. Students use their interpretation of the annual theme posted on the [TSA website](#) to unify the photographs included in the portfolio.
  - B. Participants are solely responsible for all aspects of the competition, including taking the photographs, editing, and completing the portfolio.
  - C. Preparing the portfolio:
    1. The finished album must be saved as a single, multi-page PDF document with the pages presented in the following order:
      - a. Cover page – must include the event title, the conference city and state, the year, the participant's ID number.
      - b. Summary of the theme must follow the annual challenge, including a detailed description of how the theme was interpreted by the participant, why the particular subjects were chosen, as well as the challenges that were faced in the selection of the subjects, in taking the photos, and in selecting and editing the final images.
  - D. The portfolio must be finished, submitted, and accessible via the Internet by 11:59 p.m. EST on May 15th.
    1. Entries received, or changes made to submitted entries after this deadline will not be judged.
    2. The submission must point directly to the individual's portfolio. Entries that require a request for access be granted will not be judged.
- d. Resource page – must include a list of resources used to complete the album, including camera, software, and hardware, etc.
  - e. Consent and Release Forms – Recognizable individuals pictured in the images must give their written consent before the images can be used in this event (see Photo/Film/ Video Consent and Release form in Forms Appendix). All consent forms must be included in the single, multi-page PDF album. **NOTE: If consent forms are missing, the entry will not be judged.**

**SEMIFINAL ROUND**

- A. Semifinalists are required to provide their own equipment, including:
1. A computer system (laptop preferred) with software installed.
  2. A method to transfer the images to the computer (such as a media reader) for editing, and to the USB drives
  3. Power strip
  4. Extension cord
  5. Tripod
  6. DSLR or dedicated “point-and shoot” camera, with a timer feature and/or remote trigger as well as the ability to be mounted to a tripod; Cell phones are NOT permitted as cameras
  7. Semifinalists may bring optional related accessories (i.e., filters, reflectors, extra batteries, etc.) to use in the on-site competition.
- B. No internet access will be provided during the competition.
- C. TSA will provide two (2) USB flash drives for semifinalist participants to transfer their multimedia presentation. The USB flash drives and the images contained therein become property of National TSA, Inc., and will not be returned. The images may be used in future TSA promotional materials and publications.
- D. When preparing their multimedia presentation, semifinalists must include the following information for each photograph:
1. Camera make (e.g. Nikon, Canon, Panasonic, Sony, etc.)
  2. Camera model (e.g. CoolPix, Rebel, 5D, etc.)
  3. F-stop at which each photograph was taken
  4. Exposure time of each photograph
  5. ISO value, aperture (f-stop number), and shutter speed
  6. How the photo relates to the on-site challenge

- D. Semifinalists will respond to questions during the interview, which will be conducted as part of the semifinalist on-site competition.
- E. The LEAP Response:
1. Participants document the leadership skills they have developed and demonstrated while working on this event, and on a non-competitive event leadership experience.
  2. Find specific LEAP Response regulations in the LEAP Program section of this guide, and on the [TSA website](#).

**EVALUATION**

1. Points earned for the required images and documentation (preliminary and semifinal rounds)
2. Scores on required images and the documentation portfolio determine the twelve (12) semifinalists
3. The content and quality of the LEAP Report.
4. The on-site interview
5. Points earned through the on-site event determine the final ranking

Refer to the official rating form for more information.

**STEM INTEGRATION**

This event has connections to the STEM areas of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics.

**CAREERS RELATED TO THIS EVENT**

This competition connects to one (1) or more of the career areas below:

- Animator
- Photojournalist
- Research and development scientist
- Reporter
- Website designer

# DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY

## 2020 & 2021 OFFICIAL RATING FORM

### MIDDLE SCHOOL

Judges: Using minimal (1-4 points), adequate (5-8 points), or exemplary (9-10 points) performance levels as a guideline in the rating form, record the scores earned for the event criteria in the column spaces to the right. The X1 or X2 notation in the criteria column is a multiplier factor for determining the points earned. (Example: an "adequate" score of 7 for an X1 criterion = 7 points; an "adequate" score of 7 for an X2 criterion = 14 points.) A score of zero (0) is acceptable if the minimal performance for any criterion is not met.

#### Go/No Go Specifications

- Before judging the entry, ensure that the items below are present; indicate presence with a check mark in the box.
- If an item is missing, leave the box next to the item blank and place a check mark in the box labeled ENTRY NOT EVALUATED.
- If a check mark is placed in the ENTRY NOT EVALUATED box, the entry is not to be judged.

- Digital Portfolio was submitted electronically pre-conference
- Consent/Release forms are present (if required)
- Completed LEAP response is present
- ENTRY NOT EVALUATED

PORTFOLIO ALBUM (60 points)				Record scores in the column spaces below.
CRITERIA	Minimal performance	Adequate performance	Exemplary performance	
	1-4 points	5-8 points	9-10 points	
<b>Principles and elements of design and composition and creativity</b> (X2)	There is little or no evidence of an understanding or creative use of compositional elements (line, shape, form, value, space, texture, color, framing, emphasis, balance, unity, contrast, movement/rhythm and pattern/repetition).	Images demonstrate some knowledge and creative use of compositional elements (line, shape, form, value, space, texture, color, framing, emphasis, balance, unity, contrast, movement/rhythm and pattern/repetition).	Images clearly demonstrate excellent and creative use of a variety of compositional elements (line, shape, form, value, space, texture, color, framing, emphasis, balance, unity, contrast, movement/rhythm and pattern/repetition).	
<b>Technical quality</b> (X1)	Photos are out of focus; blurriness is unintentional and does not contribute to the overall composition; photos display incorrect exposure values, white balance, and/or range of tones; there is little or no consideration given to lighting and/or special effects.	Photos are in focus; photos display correct exposure values, white balance, and/or range of tones; images exhibit some attention to lighting and/or the use of special effects.	Photo subject(s) are in sharp focus; blurriness is used effectively to enhance the composition; photos display correct exposure values, white balance, and/or range of tones; images are enhanced by attention to lighting and/or the use of special effects.	
<b>Conveyance of the theme</b> (X1)	The images are flat and lack a clear connection to the theme; viewers are not drawn into the scene; images do not clearly convey the theme/challenge.	The images show some emotional depth; viewers make an emotional connection with the images/pictures and are drawn into the scene or learn something from the subject(s); images convey the competition theme/challenge.	The images show emotional depth; viewers make an instant emotional connection with the pictures and are drawn into the scene or learn something from the subject(s); images clearly convey the competition theme/challenge.	
<b>Written Statements</b> (X1)	A written statement may or may not accompany each photo, and/or the statement includes only some of the photo's meta data (camera make/model, f/stop, exposure time, ISO speed, focal length), and/or an explanation of the relevance of the image to the challenge is not present and/or is written poorly.	A written statement accompanies each photo; the statement includes most of the photo's meta data (camera make/model, f/stop, exposure time, ISO speed, focal length); an explanation of the relevance of the image to the challenge is included.	A written statement accompanies each photo; the statement includes the photo's meta data (camera make/model, f/stop, exposure time, ISO speed, focal length); an explanation of the relevance of the image to the challenge is presented in a clear and concise manner.	
<b>Resources/References</b> (X1)	A reference list is present, but graphic and/or software packages used are not mentioned, and/or MLA format is not used, and/or the citations are inadequate.	A reference list is present and the primary software packages used are included; MLA format is used for an adequate number of resources.	Detailed and concise resources/references are provided; all software packages used are included; MLA format is used for the citations.	

<b>PORTFOLIO ALBUM SUBTOTAL (60 points)</b>	
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Rules violations (a deduction of 20% of the total possible points for the above sections) must be initialed by the judge, coordinator, and manager of the event. Record the deduction in the space to the right.

Indicate the rule violated: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>PRELIMINARY SUBTOTAL (60 points)</b>	
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SEMIFINAL CHALLENGE (70 points)				Record scores in the column spaces below.
CRITERIA	Minimal performance	Adequate performance	Exemplary performance	
	1-4 points	5-8 points	9-10 points	
<b>Principles and elements of design/ composition and creativity</b> (X2)	There is little or no evidence of an understanding or creative use of compositional elements (line, shape, form, value, space, texture, color, framing, emphasis, balance, unity, contrast, movement/rhythm and pattern/repetition).	Images demonstrate some knowledge and creative use of compositional elements (line, shape, form, value, space, texture, color, framing, emphasis, balance, unity, contrast, movement/rhythm and pattern/repetition).	Images clearly demonstrate excellent and creative use of a variety of compositional elements (line, shape, form, value, space, texture, color, framing, emphasis, balance, unity, contrast, movement/rhythm and pattern/repetition).	
<b>Technical skill</b> (X2)	Participants do not demonstrate knowledge of and understanding of how to utilize photographic equipment and techniques; participants show little or no creativity in staging and photographing subjects.	Participants demonstrate some knowledge of and understanding of how to utilize photographic equipment and techniques, or use it only minimally in the on-site challenge; participants show some creativity in staging and photographing subjects.	Participants clearly demonstrate knowledge and understanding of how to utilize photographic equipment and techniques; participants show creativity in staging and photographing subjects; participants show a high level of skill in the use of the tools to create high quality images.	
<b>Technical quality</b> (X1)	Photos are out of focus; blurriness is unintentional and does not contribute to the overall composition; photos display incorrect exposure values, white balance, and/or range of tones; there is little or no consideration given to lighting and/or special effects.	Photos are in focus; photos display correct exposure values, white balance, and/or range of tones; images exhibit some attention to lighting and/or the use of special effects.	Photo subject(s) are in sharp focus; blurriness is used effectively to enhance the composition; photos display correct exposure values, white balance, and/or range of tones; images are enhanced by attention to lighting and/or the use of special effects.	
<b>Emotional Impact</b> (X1)	The images are flat and lack emotional depth; viewers are not drawn into the scene; images do not clearly convey the theme/challenge.	The images show some emotional depth; viewers make an emotional connection with the images/pictures and are drawn into the scene or learn something from the subject(s); images convey the competition theme/challenge.	The images show emotional depth; viewers make an instant emotional connection with the pictures and are drawn into the scene or learn something from the subject(s); images clearly convey the competition theme/challenge.	
<b>Written Statements</b> (X1)	A written statement may or may not accompany each photo, and/or the statement includes only some of the photo's meta data (camera make/model, f/stop, exposure time, ISO speed, focal length), and/or an explanation of the relevance of the image to the challenge is not present and/or is written poorly.	A written statement accompanies each photo; the statement includes most of the photo's meta data (camera make/model, f/stop, exposure time, ISO speed, focal length); an explanation of the relevance of the image to the challenge is included.	A written statement accompanies each photo; the statement includes the photo's meta data (camera make/model, f/stop, exposure time, ISO speed, focal length); an explanation of the relevance of the image to the challenge is presented in a clear and concise manner.	
<b>SEMIFINAL CHALLENGE SUBTOTAL (70 points)</b>				

Record scores in the column spaces below.

<b>SEMIFINAL PRESENTATION/INTERVIEW (79 points)</b>			
<b>CRITERIA</b>	<b>Minimal performance</b>	<b>Adequate performance</b>	<b>Exemplary performance</b>
	<b>1-4 points</b>	<b>5-8 points</b>	<b>9-10 points</b>
<b>Organization</b> Use of visual materials (X1)	Participant seems unorganized and unprepared for the presentation/interview; illogical explanation of the photographs and/or stylistic elements is presented.	Participant is generally prepared for the presentation/interview; explanation of photographs and/or stylistic elements is communicated and generally organized.	The presentation/interview is logical, well organized, and easy to follow; explanation of the photographs and/or stylistic elements are communicated in an organized and concise manner.
<b>Knowledge</b> (X1)	Participant seems to have little understanding of the stylistic photographic elements used.	Participant exhibits an understanding of the stylistic photographic elements used in their project; the presentation is for the most part, logical and/or clear.	Participants show clear evidence of a thorough understanding of the stylistic photographic elements; the presentation is concise and logical.
<b>Articulation</b> (X1)	The presentation/interview lacks clarity, and/or there is insufficient information provided describing the process.	The presentation/interview is somewhat logical, easy-to follow, and/or there is sufficient information describing the process.	The presentation/interview is clear, concise, and there is ample information describing the process.
<b>Integration of theme</b> (X2)	The current theme is not demonstrated in the product.	The current theme is adequately demonstrated in the product.	The current theme is exceptionally well demonstrated in the product.
<b>Delivery</b> (X1)	The participant is verbose and/or uncertain in his/her presentation/interview; participants' posture, gestures, and lack of eye contact diminish the presentation/interview.	The participant is somewhat well-spoken and clear in his/her presentation/interview; participants' posture, gestures, and eye contact are acceptable in the presentation/interview.	The participant is well-spoken and distinct in its presentation/interview; the participants' posture, gestures, and eye contact result in a polished, natural, and effective presentation/interview.
<b>LEAP Response</b> (19 points; 10% of the total event points)	The individual's efforts are not clearly communicated, lack detail, and are unconvincing; few, if any, attempts are made to identify and incorporate the SLC Practices.	The individual's efforts are adequately communicated, include some detail, are clear, and are generally convincing; identification and incorporation of the SLC Practices are satisfactory.	The individual's efforts are clearly communicated, fully-detailed, and convincing; identification and incorporation of the SLC Practices are excellent.
<b>SEMIFINAL PRESENTATION/INTERVIEW SUBTOTAL (79 points)</b>			

Rules violations (a deduction of 20% of the total possible points for the above sections) must be initiated by the judge, coordinator, and manager of the event. Record the deduction in the space to the right.

Indicate the rule violated: \_\_\_\_\_

**SEMIFINAL SUBTOTAL (149 points)**

**To arrive at the TOTAL score, add any subtotals and subtract rules violation points, as necessary. TOTAL (209 points)**

Comments:

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I certify these results to be true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

**JUDGE**

Printed name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

# DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY

## EVENT COORDINATOR INSTRUCTIONS

### PERSONNEL

- A. Event coordinator
- B. Judges:
  1. Preliminary round, two (2) or more; judging takes place online.
  2. Semifinal round, two (2) or more

### MATERIALS

- A. Coordinator's packet, containing:
  1. Event guidelines, one (1) copy for the coordinator and each judge
  2. TSA Event Coordinator Report
  3. List of judges/assistants
  4. Results envelope with coordinator forms
- B. Semifinal round materials
  1. Evaluation schedule
  2. Task and guidelines
  3. At least twelve (12) TSA approved USB's for the on-site challenge
  4. Blank stick-on labels for USB identification
  5. Interview questions
  6. One projector
  7. One white board or wall to project the images.
  8. One laptop with USB capabilities

### RESPONSIBILITIES

#### PRE-CONFERENCE/PRELIMINARY ROUND

1. National TSA will collect entries until 11:59 p.m. EST on May 15th and send out receipt confirmations to participants. The results will be shared with the CRC manager, event coordinator, and assigned judges.
2. Review entries as they are submitted to the designated online storage utility.

3. Manage communication and pre-conference evaluation (at least two [2] or more judges should be recruited earlier in the year). Coordinate with the Judge Manager.
4. Judges determine the twelve (12) semifinalists and discuss and break any ties. Results will be posted on-site at the national conference on the first full day of conference.

#### AT THE CONFERENCE

1. Attend the mandatory coordinator's meeting at the designated time and location.
2. Report to the CRC room and check the contents of the coordinator's packet.
3. Review the event guidelines and check to see that enough personnel have been scheduled.
4. On the first full day of competition, post a list of the twelve (12) semifinalists in random order.

#### SEMIFINAL ROUND

1. Before the on-site task session, check the room set-up. There should be enough seating, table space, and access to electricity for twelve (12) semifinalists.
2. Participants must bring their own equipment, including computers and cameras.
3. Review the on-site task and procedures with the participants.
4. Label the TSA approved USBs with the semifinalists' student ID numbers.
5. Distribute the TSA approved USBs to each participant.
6. Review procedures and the semifinalist task with judges.
7. Manage the semifinalist session with judges, who may observe participants taking pictures.
8. Manage the semifinalist evaluation and the removal of participants' equipment.

9. Decisions about rules violations must be discussed and verified with the judges, event coordinator, and the CRC manager to determine either:
  - To deduct twenty percent (20%) of the total possible points in this round
  - To disqualify the entry

The event coordinator, judges and CRC manager must all initial either of the violations on the rating form.

10. Judges determine the ten (10) finalists and discuss and break any ties that affect the top three (3) placements.
11. Submit the finalist results and all related forms in the results envelope to the CRC room.
12. If necessary, manage security and the removal of materials from the event area.